

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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R 010906Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6166
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 0298

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR
SUBJ: LIBREVILLE AIRPORT EXTENSION

CASABLANCA FOR RCAA

REF: STATE 38313

1. UNCLASSIFIED. TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVE (PIRON) OF
ASECNA (AFRICAN AIRPORT SECURITY ASSOCIATION) PROVIDED
FOLLOWING INFORMATION FEBRUARY 27 REGARDING AIRPORT
EXTENSION.

A. AIRPORT WILL HAVE THREE PARALLEL RUNWAYS: ONE
2000 METERS LONG FOR SMALL PLANES, SECOND 3,300 METERS
LONG FOR LARGE PLANES SUCH AS 747'S TO ENABLE DIRECT
FLIGHTS AT FULL CAPACITY TO EUROPE, AND THIRD 2,400
METERS FOR MILITARY PLANES.

B. NEW AIRPORT WILL BE FIVE KILOMETERS PAST PRESENT
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT'S LOCATION, AND CLEARING OF FOREST
TO BEGIN ABOUT MIDDLE OF MARCH. ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN FIRST HALF OF 1976.

C. FEASIBILITY STUDIES WERE DONE BY ASECNA'S OFFICES
IN DAKAR AND PARIS, AND ASECNA WILL BE IN CHARGE OF
CONSTRUCTION CONTROL. FINAL MAP OF NEW AIRPORT WILL BE
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READY IN MID-MARCH AND EMBASSY WILL OBTAIN COPY.

D. CALL FOR BIDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RUNWAYS WILL BE IN ONE YEAR AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS IN 18 MONTHS. THREE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES (SOCOBA, SOFRA TP AND DRAGAGES) HAVE ALREADY FORMED CONSORTIUM WITH COMPANIES INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTING TRANSGABON RAILROAD TO CONSTRUCT RUNWAYS.

E. NEW AIRPORT WILL HAVE CAPACITY OF 1.5 MILLION PASSENGERS PER YEAR WHEREAS PRESENT CAPACITY IS 23,000 PASSENGERS PER YEAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY CHANCE FOR AMERICAN FIRM TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PROJECT, PIRON STATED IN CONFIDENCE THAT EVERYTHING HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED IN ADVANCE AT QUOTE THE HIGHEST LEVEL END QUOTE AND THAT CALL FOR BIDS WILL BE MERE FORMALITY.

3. COMMENT. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE CHANCES FOR AMERICAN FIRMS VERY GREAT IN THIS PROJECT, BUT WILL, OF COURSE, BE HAPPY TO SET UP APPOINTMENTS FOR ANY INTERESTED COMPANY WITH PIRON AND ANYONE ELSE COMPANY DESIRED TO MEET. AMBASSADOR WILL ALSO RAISE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION DIRECTLY WITH RAWIRI. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
MCKESSON

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